States in export and interaction with industry, trade and other export promotional institutions for initiation of appropriate measures from time to time.

Export of Tea of Russian Federation

*540. SHRI PARAG CHALIHA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether India exports tea to Russian Federation;

(b) if so, the details of quantity of exported tea to these countries during the last three years;

(c) whether Russia has very recently imposed double import duty on tea;

(d) if so, whether this step has adversely affected Indian exports in tea; and

(e) if so, steps contemplated to neutralise the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH): (a) to (e) Export of tea to Russia during the last three years have been as follows:—

(Qty. Mn. Kg)
(Value Rs. in crore)

Years	Exports	
	Qty.	Value
1994-95	41.06	271.94
1995-96	68.05	483.80
1996-97 (April-Jan.)	25.41	198.51

Source: Tea Board

Under a new resolution enacted by the Government of Russia and announced by Russian State Customs Committee on 30.4.97, Customs Duty on import of all packet teas (both black and green) will be increased from existing rate of 10% to 20% with effect from 1st June, 1997. Proposed increase in customs duty is likely to affect packet tea imports into Russia from major exporting countries including India.

Tea Board in association with exporters to Russia, is in touch with Russian tea buyers to ascertain extent of impact of new import duty structure and formulate appropriate steps to safeguard interests of Indian tea exporters.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

Complaints against private operators of aeroplanes

3959. SHRI MOOLCHAND MEENA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that private operators of aeroplane is allowed to carry passenger on remuneration purpose;

(b) whether such kind of operations have been carried out in Delhi for which the complaints were made;

(c) whether Karson Aviation planes of Delhi are used for remuneration purpose; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and what action has been taken against them?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM): (a) No, Sir. In accordance with Civil Aviation Requirements, a private category aircraft cannot be used for hire or reward or remuneration of any kind whatsoever.

(b) to (d) A complaint was received by the DGCA alleging that the private aircraft owned by M/s Karson Aviation was beign used for remuneration. Although the owner has categorically denied having used the aircraft for any commercial purpose, DGCA, which is the regulatory authority for monitoring the use of such

aircraft, has been asked to make an independent enquiry and take necessary action in the matter.

Proposal for international airport in Karnataka

3960. PROF. RAM KAPSE: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have cleared the proposal of international airport in Karnataka;

(b) if so, when and where it is proposed to be located: and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM): (a) to (c) The proposal for the construction of a new airport of International standards with private participation at a site near Devenhally, Banagalore is under consideration of the Central Government.

Construction of Five Star Hotel in Mumbai

3961. SHRI MUKESH R. PATEL:
SHRI SANJAY NIRUPAM:
SHRI RAJNATH SINGH 'SURYA':

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to give permission to set up a new Five Star Hotel on the land of International Airport Authority of India in Mumbai near Sahar International Airport;

(b) whether Government are aware that a Five Star Hotel is already existing on the land of International Airport Authority of India in Mumbai near Sahar International Airport;

(c) when this earlier hotel was set up and who gave permission to start the hotel on the Government land; and

(d) what action has been taken against the hotel owner to stop the misuse of Government land?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM): (a) A plot of land was allotted to M/s. Narang International Hotel, but this allotment was cancelled due to violation of the terms of the agreement. The matter is sub-judice. M/s. Leela Venture has been leased 11000 sq. mtrs. of land on 1-4-1994 for construction of additional 150 rooms and 6107 sq. mtrs. has been allotted to them on 16-3-1995 for construction of a 5-Star Deluxe Hotel at Mumbai Airport.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The Board of erstwhile IAAI approved the construction of 5-Star hotel by M/s. Leela Venture in 1983 and the hotel was commissioned in November, 1986.

(d) A notice was served on M/s. Hotel Leela Venture on 27-9-1996 to vacate the land and a board reading "This land belongs to AAI" has been displayed thereon.

Encroachment of IAAI land by Five Star Hotel Leela Panta, Mumbai

3962. SHRI RAJNATH SINGH 'SURYA':
SHRI MUKESH R. PATEL:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Five Star Hotel Leela Panta in Mumbai has encroached the land of International Airport Authority of India (IAAI);

(b) if so, what action has been taken against the hotel owner in this regard;

(c) whether IAAI is prepared to give up its land for the above said hotel; and

(d) if not, what action has been taken to take back the land from the hotel owner?